



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Mr W. K. JEWETT: Referring to the use of maps I would like to describe the method used in the Geographical survey. Cases have been described by Mr Drury but they are arranged in a two-story map stack, just like a two-story book stack, above the first floor of cases being a deck with an iron stairway leading up to it and on this deck being another row of cases just like those below and then these cases are in sections, each section containing so many sliding shelves and the whole section closed by vertical double doors. It seems to me an excellent way of utilizing the utmost capacity of the room for map storage. In the Coast and geodetic survey I saw rolled maps stored very much as Mr Drury described them in the Buffalo public library. That is to say, they were kept in tin cases just like a great big diploma case and those filed horizontally in a suitable rack and on the tin cap of each case was lettered the number of the map inside. I have forgotten whether it was a serial number or a class symbol but at any rate what was inside of the case was lettered on the map so as you stood

in front of the rack you could see at a glance what case you wanted to consult.

The CHAIRMAN: I will call for the report of the Nominating committee at this time.

Mr BARR (Chicago, Ill.): Mr Chairman, the nominating committee submits the following names for the officers of this section for the ensuing year: for Chairman, Mr W. W. Bishop, superintendent of the reading room of the Library of Congress; for Secretary, Miss Elisa Willard, reference librarian of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburg.

The CHAIRMAN: Other nominations are in order if it is so desired at this time.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be adopted and that the secretary be authorized to cast the ballot of the Section for the candidates named, which was accordingly done and the nominees were duly declared elected president and secretary.

The CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the close of our College and reference conference and as chairman of this section I thank you for your hearty cooperation.

Adjourned.

TRUSTEES' SECTION

The meeting was called to order by its chairman, W. T. Porter of Cincinnati, Wednesday, June 24, at 8.15 p. m.

Mr Porter expressed his pleasure at the number in attendance, and after a few words, introduced the speaker of the evening, JACOB STONE, trustee of the Minneapolis public library, who presented a most interesting and comprehensive paper, entitled:

LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND THEIR USES

Several years' experience as member of a library board will perhaps warrant the expression of some opinions and views which deserve consideration.

In what I have to say, however, may

I not be understood as a learner rather than as a teacher, and if sufficient interest attaches to this paper, to lead to a discussion of the points involved, I shall feel amply rewarded.

The subject of Library Buildings naturally divides itself into the question of location, construction and arrangement.

Location. Here at once a difficult problem presents itself for solution. On the one hand is the question of accessibility, on the other that of retirement. A public library in a place of from 2000 to 20,000 inhabitants can well be located in the heart of the city as the question of noise is not so disturbing a feature as in larger cities. While a library is primarily for the housing and distribution of books, it

is also for the affording of facilities for reading and reference. In these modern days, instead of being a quiet sequestered nook for the scholarly and studious, it has become an aggressive force in the community, and must push its way in among the busy haunts of men, reaching out the torch of knowledge to lighten the way of the ignorant and careless. And this necessity requires an easily accessible location for the building, within a moment's reach of the busy man of the world as well as of his wife and family. With space sufficient about it to insure an abundance of light and air—two prime requisites—and grounds of sufficient size to allow of its being away from the dust and noises of the street, its location can be convenient and impressive. In the smaller cities the comparative inexpensiveness of land will admit of generous space.

In the larger cities the problem is a different one and contact with the public generally can only be gained by means of branches and stations. A large central building, the great reservoir from which may be drawn books for the branches and stations, its use largely for reference and study, it occupies the leading position. Here the administrative work is carried on. Here the valuable books of reference are kept and here, if anywhere, are the museums and art-galleries. Its location can be easily more retired, although in this case, also, the question of accessibility should be borne in mind. As an example of civic taste, in its design, construction, care and administration, it should hold high before the community the standard of artistic and practical utility.

Construction. It would be impossible within the limits of this paper to go extensively into the question of architecture and construction. Without being offensively ornate, the library building should be built along lines of simple dignity and beauty, consonant to the great work it is intended for. In its design the interior arrangement should be the primary consideration, that wisely determined upon, and all else subordinated. Facilities for

economical administration, for public convenience, for proper care and room for books are the essentials and with these a structure which shall show what it stands for and be an example of fitness and beauty.

If I were to build a library, I should first secure the services of a consulting architect of standing and the primary step would be a conference with the librarian, and afterwards with the trustees. I say "afterwards with the trustees" for it is a well established fact that all properly constituted library boards are the docile disciples of the librarians and whatever they bid us do, we do.

Arrangement. In speaking upon this feature of the subject, let me emphasize what I consider the primary object of a public library, viz., the storage and distribution of books. Reading rooms, reference rooms, art galleries, lecture rooms, club rooms, all are admirable, but I maintain are not necessary adjuncts of a public library and with the possible exception of reading and reference rooms, should not be considered unless or until what to me seems legitimate needs of the institution are fully met. In the case of a library supported by public taxation, it is a grave question whether the use of the public funds is warranted in any other direction. This may seem to many of you as a narrow view of the uses and range of a public library, but to my thinking, the great and preeminent value of books per se, so far outweighs other and kindred advantages as to make the expenditure of money for books of the first importance. But whether my theory be true or not, I cannot justify the expenditure of money raised by taxation in any other direction. The taxpayer has a right to demand that the money he pays into the city treasury shall be expended for the purpose for which it was raised—for strictly library purposes. This is a point which I should be glad to hear discussed by so intelligent a body as this. The generosity of private citizens may well add whatever is akin to the objects of a library, and should be welcomed but all

else should be subordinated to its proper functions. Certainly the corridors and halls of a building devoted to quiet and study should not echo to the footfalls or be subject to the pranks of pupils of a school of any kind in the building.

Books, books, books! This let it not be forgotten is the great object and end, and anything which diverts from or interferes with this object should have no place in a library building.

I cannot but believe, however, that this simple steady object should be pursued by the trustees of a public library and that no alluring schemes should be allowed to make demands upon our means and time.

Uses of a library. I pass over the obvious advantages of a large, well lighted delivery room, with stack rooms of easy accessibility, a librarian's office which can be easily reached and a commodious reference and reading room and refer to the features which may be fairly subjects of discussion.

Newspaper and periodical room. The question might properly be raised whether this feature is the proper function of a library—and here let us not allow our benevolent emotions to govern. It is true that here are attracted many who do not appreciate or enjoy the reading of books and also that it is a means of keeping from the streets many who, but for this opportunity would occupy themselves in much less beneficial ways. A library, however, is not a benevolent institution, nor is it a religious society, admirable and valuable as those are. It is not designed for the propagation of any particular religion or for missionary purposes. It is simply, to my thinking, an association of free and independent citizens who have organized under what seems to them the most effective form for the purpose of purchasing, caring for and distributing among themselves, well chosen, interesting and helpful books.

Doubtless periodicals to a large extent are desirable reading, but can the same be said of newspapers? It must be confessed that much that is printed in the newspaper is neither elevating nor instructive, but

on the other hand there is much in them that is stimulating and helpful? Whether these latter advantages outweigh the many prevalent evils of the public press is a serious question.

Standard magazines and periodicals certainly have their place in the shelves of a library and in a reading room, but should not the line be drawn here?

Open shelf room. This feature seems to have secured an unassailable place in library work. To see and handle the various books gathered here, stimulates and interests many whom the cold pages of a catalog would not attract. Those of us who have always lived in an atmosphere of books can with difficulty appreciate what this opportunity to "browse" among them means to those who have been denied this privilege. To handle, to even superficially delve into these mines of thought and information opens the way often to that thirst for knowledge which these institutions are created to satisfy. It creates an atmosphere of literature in which many an unthinking mind will develop and mature. What hidden talents may develop here! What impulse may here be given which will be a lifelong source of happiness and good!

I want to testify here to the general trustworthiness of the public in this department. While it is undoubtedly true that abuses and thefts sometimes occur—and I would by no means minimize their seriousness—I consider them a very small factor in this department of library work, and can well be afforded in view of the general good gained. In our own library we have not even found an attendant necessary in this room. Entered by a stiled gateway adjoining the delivery desk and the only egress being directly in front of the delivery desk, so many books are taken out of the library through this room that the work of the attendants is considerably lightened and we feel that a substantial benefit is afforded the public. Here exists that delightful democracy of books which dispenses with the distinctions of wealth and station and our fellow

citizens of all ranks meet upon a common footing.

Children's room. This feature of a library seems to me of very great importance. To stimulate and guide the young mind by the use of proper books is certainly one of the functions of a library. Here also is entire accessibility to books on open shelves allowed. With its low chairs and tables, its attractively adorned walls, its books within easy reach and its air of welcome and hospitality, it affords many a bright hour to the little ones who mayhap have no cheerful homes and can see no interesting books elsewhere. Add to this a bright, responsive, sympathetic attendant and you have an instrument for good which can give much happiness and improvement.

Doubtless there are other desirable uses to which a public library may be put which deserve consideration, but my paper has already nearly reached the limit of time allowed.

I think one of the fundamental questions is how far may a library go towards popularizing its work? That it should make efforts in this direction is undoubted, but the line must be drawn somewhere. The splendid zeal and activity which animates so many libraries along these lines is worthy of all praise, but to me there is a certain dignity properly appertaining to a public library which should be considered. What is too easily obtained is often undervalued.

Some of the fervent friends of the institution here in Minneapolis think we should furnish a smoking room for our reading patrons. To my thinking, the great and preeminent advantages of the opportunities offered by the public library should be enjoyed entirely separate and distinct from the indulgence in what to many seems to border on a vice. The noble and inspiring occupation of reading must not be tainted in a public institution with any connection with anything which is not uplifting or beneficial. Let this great and noble beneficence keep its skirts

clear of any compromise with any habits of self-indulgence.

After this interesting paper, Mr Porter thanked Mr Stone in behalf of the Trustees' section for presenting it. He agreed with Mr Stone on the newspaper room and invited those in attendance to express their views on the number of points that had been raised by the reading of the paper.

Mr Corey of Massachusetts said that newspaper rooms should not be connected with the library. Instead of being used for ornamentation, the money should be put into more room in the library building. Open shelves are not a good thing, as they lead to crime among the young. A public library should be a place to promote good citizenship and open shelves tempt children and the weak-minded to steal.

Mr Stone then stated that all their shelves were not open to the public, but that two or three thousand volumes, subject to continual change, were placed in an open shelf room and here the public was allowed access to the shelves.

A trustee from Winona, Minn., stated that in their case they had suffered more from mutilation than from the actual loss of books. Their library has open shelves, but under the direct supervision of the librarian. The open shelves are only open to adults and other children, the younger children getting their books from the catalog.

Mr Kelly of Toronto stated that he had come to the conclusion that the open shelves idea could not be carried on successfully. It may be possible in a small library, or in branch libraries to a certain extent, but in large libraries it creates a great deal of confusion. He asked to hear from some trustee who had had the experience of building a large library. He said that the average architect was not as interested in libraries as a trustee, even though he had built libraries, and for that reason he would be glad to hear from some of the trustees present.

Mr Dawley of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, stated that he had gone through the experience

of building a \$75,000 library. They had at first requested the librarian to look up the matter thoroughly and lay out a plan concerning the inside of the library, what was wanted on the inside without any reference to the outside. A local architect was chosen, in order to have him always on the ground. Three members of the board went with the architect and visited a number of libraries, picking out the good points and finding out the bad ones. Then the librarian and the architect met and together they put an outside to the library. Their library is built almost without any permanent partitions and offers a light, cheery and pleasant inside.

Mr Dawley stated his approval, as far as possible, to open shelves. In their library no great amount of books had been lost and but very little mutilation of books had occurred. With regard to the newspaper room, he stated that in their case it had been used in making the library popular and was a great success. They had the leading newspapers from all over the country and he could see no valid argument against a library having a newspaper room.

Mr Carr of Scranton, Pa., stated that these problems had to be looked at differently. Open shelves was a very important question, and while some libraries could afford to carry them on, others could not. As to architects, in general, they do not deal with any line of work so unsatisfac-

torily as they do with libraries. Few libraries are what they should be and it is a very serious matter. Librarians should plan from the inside out, not from the outside in. Newspaper rooms also depend on the locality.

Mr Ranck from Grand Rapids, Mich., spoke a good word for newspaper rooms. They are used by traveling men, who often come to the library to use the papers from their own towns. Newspapers can be used, and are being used, in a reference way in a good many of our libraries. Business and professional men who are looking for the sort of thing they can only find in the newspapers come to the library and refer to them. In this way they serve a good, useful purpose.

Mr Porter gave a brief outline of the open shelves experience of the Cincinnati public library. Everything, with the exception of the art room, was open to the public. The main building and the branch libraries follow this plan. Some books, it is true, are missed, and this is especially true when a branch library is first opened. But few books are lost in proportion to the good obtained through open shelves. The plan of building libraries in Cincinnati is similar to that followed by Mr Dawley.

After rather an interesting discussion of fiction in the library, the election of officers took place, resulting as follows: President, W. T. Porter, Cincinnati; secretary, Thos. L. Montgomery, Harrisburg, Pa.

CATALOG SECTION

Large Library session

Friday, June 26, 1908, 9.30 A. M.

Miss VAN VALKENBURGH (Chairman): In working with the list of subject headings some of the library people became aware that the relations between reference librarians and catalogers were not as close as seemed desirable. In fact we found out that there were places where

the reference librarians did not entirely approve of our methods. So it seemed to us desirable that we should have a meeting where we could get the reference librarians and the catalogers together and talk things over and see if we could not come to a little better accord; at any rate, explain our difficulties, if there were any difficulties, and see what seemed to be the conditions existing. We have been very